

## MCA Programming Slate for 2023-2024

*Note that all programming listed below is subject to change depending on public health restrictions, staff and volunteer capacity, and participant interest/involvement. The Program Committee will provide direction for all programming and program updates will be shared regularly with the membership throughout the year as they become available.*

### CALENDAR AT-A-GLANCE

August	September	October
Board retreat Reading Session/Networking Event	Membership Renewals Choir 101 Member 101	Regional Youth Choir Performances TEMPO IDEA Corner (SIG)
November	December	January
ChoralFest		Board meeting Intra-provincial SIG
February	March	April
Senior High Choral Workshop MB Sings IDEA Corner (SIG)	Fundraising Gala Event* Sing-Along Event Board meeting	Intra-provincial SIG
May	June	July/August
PODIUM (Choral Canada) IDEA Corner (SIG) Awards & Competitions	Run for Music* Board meeting	INSPIRE Intra-provincial SIG Board retreat

\*Contingent on staff and volunteer capacity

AGM – Date TBD

### PROGRAM/EVENT DETAILS

#### Reading Session/Networking Event

*August 2023 (or later)*

This event will be similar to the reading sessions that used to be offered by St. John's Music and our former Tried & True program. The Program Committee is still deciding on which set-up would be most cost-efficient and beneficial to our membership. Among possible options are:

- Reaching out to publishers for music to present
- Using what is in the MCA library
- Reaching out to local composers

Note: This event may be moved to the spring if staff/volunteer capacity does not allow for it to be held in August 2023.

## **Choir 101**

*September 2023*

This one-day professional development workshop for singers will take place right as choirs start their choral seasons in September. The workshop is designed for novice choristers with a limited background in music. The basics of sight-singing and theory will be addressed throughout the day, as will the fundamentals of vocal technique. The goal is to equip choristers through participatory learning with skills which can be applied in their weekly choir rehearsals for the 2023-2024 season. Topics to be covered include vocal production, rhythm, melody, harmony, voice parts, dynamics, and the physical and mental health benefits of singing and participating in choral ensembles.

## **Member 101**

*September 2023*

This is an opportunity for all members, even those who have been MCA members for some time, to attend a virtual session to learn more about what MCA membership is all about. The session will be recorded and posted to our website following the session.

## **IDEA Corner Sessions**

*Various Dates, 2023-24*

MCA is looking forward to launching our Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, & Accessibility Special Interest Group (IDEA SIG) through our IDEA Corner sessions. Members from all segments of the choral community (conductors, educators, singers, enthusiasts, etc.) will be invited to come together in-person and/or virtually to explore topics related to IDEA throughout the year.

## **Regional Youth Choir Performances**

*October 2023*

Regional Youth Choir tours and performances will take place across the province in October. MCA plans to attend the performances, and is exploring the possibility of a collaboration between the regions to plan a joint concert in a central location, either for 2023 or 2024.

## **TEMPO**

*October 21, 2023*

MCA is working with MMEA to plan TEMPO 2023, which will once again be held in-person at Mennonite Brethren Collegiate Institute on October 20, 2023. Choral presenters confirmed so far are Dr. Janet Brenneman (Winnipeg) and Tracy Wong (Toronto). We look forward to connecting with music educators and members at the event!

## ChoralFest

November 13-22, 2023

Our flagship program will go ahead in 2023 with some exciting additions and expansions:

- **Senior Years Choirs (Grades 9-12)** will perform in the pod system (up to three choirs), and afterwards will receive two 20-min clinics (from different clinicians).
- **Middle Years Choirs (Grades 5-8)** will have the option of registering for:
  - Performance in pod system + two 20-min clinics (at ChoralFest choral venue); or
  - 30-min clinic tailored to the choir in their school.\*
- **Early Years Choirs (Grades K-4)** will receive a 30-min clinic tailored to their choir in their school.
- **Community Choirs** will perform in the pod system (up to three choirs), and afterwards will receive two 20-min clinics (from different clinicians). NEW for 2023, community choirs will have the option of requesting an evening or daytime slot!
- **Vocal Jazz Choirs** will perform in the pod system (up to three choirs), and afterwards will receive two 20-min clinics (from different clinicians).
- **NEW! Regional Clinics:** Choirs in Westman, Parkland, and/or Norman are eligible to participate in a special pilot project—ChoralFest will come to them. More details to be announced soon.

\* Schools in close proximity may wish to co-host a clinic together in one location. Available to schools in Winnipeg & Surrounding areas (within 150km).

We are excited to announce our 2023 choral and vocal jazz specialists:

- **Senior & Middle Years & Community Choirs:** Dr. Adam Con (Victoria, BC), Michelle Chzyk (Virden, MB), Philip Lapatha (Winnipeg), Kristel Peters (Winnipeg)
- **Vocal Jazz Choirs:** Christine Guter (CA, USA), Jamond McCoy (CA, USA), Karly Epp (Winnipeg)
- **Early & Middle Years In-School Clinics:** Nedra Francis (Winnipeg), Janna Reid (Winnipeg)
- **Regional Clinics:** Dr. Elroy Friesen (Winnipeg), Dr. Catherine Robbins (Winnipeg)

## Intra-Provincial Special Interest Group

Various Dates, 2023-24

Meetings for this SIG will be open to anyone from any region in the province and will explore how MCA can build and strengthen relationships and strategically plan programs to support choirs around the province, and how the regions can connect with and support each other.

## MB Sings

February 2-4, 2024

We are looking forward to celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this flagship program in 2024!

Rehearsals will once again take place at Gordon Bell High School (Winnipeg) on the Friday and Saturday and the finale performance will take place Sunday afternoon Portage Avenue Church again (Winnipeg).

Guest conductors for 2024 have been confirmed:

- Junior High Choir (gr. 5-8): Sonya Williams (Winnipeg)
- Senior High Choir (gr. 9-12): Melanie DeMore (Oakland, CA)
- Adult Choir (ages 18+): Scott Leithead (Edmonton, AB)

### **Senior High Choral Workshop**

*February 2, 2024*

As in years past, we will offer a workshop to senior years choirs with one of the out-of-town MB Sings conductors the day MB Sings starts. We invite all senior high choirs to attend the event, where they will perform for each other and learn a new piece of music.

### **Sing-Along Event**

*March 2024*

Inspired by open-mic nights and *Choir!Choir!Choir!* events, this event will gather choral enthusiasts for an evening of socializing and choral singing at a local coffee shop or brewery. Using music from the MCA library and local composers, singers can enjoy some refreshments and make music together in a relaxed environment.

### **INSPIRE**

*Summer 2024*

Plans are in the works to get this program for high school students up and running next summer. The camp would include a group vocal lesson component, an introduction to conducting, a group choir, and numerous leadership activities. We hope to turn young students on to a future in choral music education and inspire them to share their new skills with their choral peers in the fall. Students will apply their new skills through singing in, and taking turns conducting, the camp choir. Facilitators will be confirmed at a later date.

### **Fundraising Events**

*Dates TBD*

If staff and volunteer capacity allows, MCA will plan a fundraising gala event for donors, featuring local choirs, food, drink, and opportunities for mingling, as well as Run for Music, a fundraising and advocacy project of MCA. Participants will take part in a 5km or 10km run/walk. Funds raised through Run for Music pledges will be split between MCA member choirs and MCA.